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Candles and City Streets

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Chapter 1 by Sophie Noyes

The night was eerily quiet as I ran through the dark city. All I could hear was the pounding of my feet on the ground, the rushing of my blood in my ears. I realized how loud I was being and ducked into a space between buildings, barely squeezing through. "This certainly can't hold up to fire code," I thought to myself.

Oh god, fire.

Nothing was supposed to go wrong. I suppose we knew it was risky, but we had to know if we could really talk to her. Eliza had died, and we knew it was partially our fault. We'd read online about seances, and it had all seemed so stupid, but we had to know.

Reckless, reckless, stupid.

Amanda got so scared she broke the circle, and Viv cursed at her, telling her that she'd doomed us all to an awful death. Jake and Seth had tried to calm us down. There was no vengeance for a death that wasn't our fault. But it had been. And the candle flew across the room when no one had touched it. The house went up in flames. We all screamed and ran. Seth took my hand. Our eyes met and then he let go. I screamed at him to keep running, but the entire floor had collapsed, and I saw his eyes as his body caught flame.

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I had to run away from the city because I was scared of them, but it felt like paradise.

I could hear police sirens in the distance.

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